# Case 2:11-cv-06397-WY Document 1 Filed 10/13/11 Page 1 of 12

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

DATE

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PRIVED SECTION OF THE EDDM.)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS		
UTAH YORK		NCO FINANCIA	AL SYSTEMS, INC.	
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff	County of Residence o	f First Listed Defendant	MARIO AND
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na	me, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	ress) NOTE: IN LANI	O CONDEMNATION CASES, US	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
Craig Thor Kimmel, E Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888	P.C.	LAND I Attorneys (If Known)	NVOLVED.	
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only) PT Citizen of This State □		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	of Business In A	Another State
		Citizen or Subject of a  Foreign Country	3	0606
	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			
CONTRACT	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY  7 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES
& Enforcement of Judgment    151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Franchise   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property	□ 310 Airplane □ 362 Personal Injury -	G20 Other Food & Drug   G25 Drug Related Seizure   G25 Drug Related Seizure   G30 Liquor Laws   G40 R.R. & Truck   G50 Airline Regs.   G60 Occupational   Safety/Health   G90 Other   LABOR   710 Fair Labor Standards   Act   720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations   730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting   & Disclosure Act   740 Railway Labor Act   790 Other Labor Litigation   791 Empl. Ret. Inc.   Security Act   IMMIGRATION	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations  ▼ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>又</b> 1 Original □ 2 Re	ate Court Appellate Court	Reopened anothe	erred from 6 Multidistry Litigation	Appeal to District  Judge from Magistrate Judgment
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you at 15 U.S.C SECTION 1692  Brief description of cause: Fair Debt Collection Practices Ad		il statutes unless diversity);	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:			CHECK YES only  JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
Explanation:				
10-13-1	1 /S/ CRAIG THOR KI	MMEL		

# Case 2:11-cv-06397-WY Document 1 Filed 10/13/11 Page 2 of 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 15010 Alsene Drive Frisco	TX 75035
Address of Defendant: 507 Prudental Rived Horst	rum PA 190L/4
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:(Use Reverse Side For Ad	History Conno
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation an	
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes No No
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No□
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:         Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	_ /
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior su	Yes No Verminated
action in this court?	in pending of within one year previously terminated
	Yes□ No□
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier nu	
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No□
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?
	Yes□ No□
ONUIL ONL ATTOONS ONLY	
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please
	specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11. All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C. \$ 1692	
(Please specify)  ARBITRATION CERTI	FICATION
(Check Appropriate Cat	egory)
I, Counsel of record do hereby certify  Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and b	
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	telet, the damages recoverable in this eight action case exceed the sum of
☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
NEW 10-13-11 Care har kinsmal	57100
DATE: 10 13 11 Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	e has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or w	vithin one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 10-13-11 [ran Ma-Kimmel]	57100
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (6/08)

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Utan York	:	CIVIL ACTION	
NCO Financial S	systems, Inc	NO.	
In accordance with the Civiplaintiff shall complete a Ca filing the complaint and serv side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant the plaintiff and all other pa	il Justice Expense and Delay Rease Management Track Designation of a copy on all defendants. (See § event that a defendant does not a shall, with its first appearance, su	duction Plan of this court, couns on Form in all civil cases at the tile 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reagree with the plaintiff regarding abmit to the clerk of court and ser Designation Form specifying the	me of everse g said ve on
SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CASE MANAGE	MENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241	through § 2255.	( )
	requesting review of a decision on a decision on the plaintiff Social Security Be		( )
(c) Arbitration – Cases requ	aired to be designated for arbitrati	ion under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	X
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvexposure to asbestos.	ring claims for personal injury or	property damage from	( )
commonly referred to as	Cases that do not fall into tracks (s complex and that need special of side of this form for a detailed ex	r intense management by	( )
,	- Cases that do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	( )
10-13-11 Date 215-540-8888	Attorney-at-law 877-188-2864	Utah York Attorney for Kimmel Ocred Hau	<u></u> w.com
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address	

(Civ. 660) 10/02

#### 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 UTAH YORK, 4 Plaintiff 5 **Civil Action No.:** v. 6 COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 7 TRIAL 8 Defendant ) (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 **COMPLAINT** 10 UTAH YORK ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, 11 P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"): 12 13 INTRODUCTION 14 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 16 et seq. (hereinafter the "TCPA"). 17 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 18 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 19 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 20 without regard to the amount in controversy," 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 21 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367 22 grants this court supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims contained therein. 23 3. Defendant has its corporate headquarters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 24 25 and as such, personal jurisdiction is established.

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

4.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Frisco, Texas.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. Also, Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a) and Wenrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, PA 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON THE FDCPA

- 11. The FDCPA is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any

person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 15. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a consumer debt and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.
- 16. Upon information and belief, the debt arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

#### PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

- 17. Beginning in or around May 2011, Defendant constantly and continuously placed collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt of another person.
  - 18. Defendant placed calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 19. Plaintiff received calls to his cellular phone from the following telephone number: (800) 735-6588, which the undersigned has confirmed is a phone number belonging to Defendant.
- 20. In its telephone calls to Plaintiff, Defendant disclosed to Plaintiff that it was attempting to collect a debt for a "Maria H."
- 21. In those instances where Plaintiff answered Defendant's telephone calls Plaintiff informed Defendant that he was not "Maria H.", he did not know a "Maria H.", and he did not want to be contacted about this debt.
- 22. Despite having been told that it was calling the wrong person, Defendant continued to contact Plaintiff in its attempts to collect a debt from "Maria H."
- 23. Defendant contacted Plaintiff on his cellular telephone, on average, at least two times a day.
- 24. In addition to calling Plaintiff, Defendant would leave, on average, three (3) prerecorded collection messages on Plaintiff's cellular telephone each week.
- 25. Most recently, on September 20, 2011, at 3:51 p.m., Defendant called Plaintiff on his cellular telephone in an attempt to collect a debt. In its automated voicemail message, Defendant instructed Plaintiff to call back and talk to "Kurt Coor."
- 26. Plaintiff does not have a business relationship with Defendant and has not had prior dealings with Defendant.
  - 27. Plaintiff did not consent to the placement of any collection calls to his cellular

telephone from Defendant.

- 28. Defendant's telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone were not for emergency purposes.
- 29. Further, Plaintiff did not have a business relation with the entity that placed collection account for "Maria H." with Defendant.
- 30. Plaintiff did not consent to the placement of any calls to his cellular telephone from Defendant.
- 31. The aforementioned telephone calls were harassing and abusive to Plaintiff; because Plaintiff, as a non-debtor, has a greater privacy right than a debtor from cellular telephone calls demanding payment of an alleged debt.
- 32. Defendant failed to investigate or verify contact information prior to and after calling Plaintiff.
  - 33. Defendant failed to update its records to avoid further harassment of Plaintiff.
- 34. The repetitive calls to Plaintiff were disturbing, harassing, and an invasion of privacy.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF THE FDCPA

- 35. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 36. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The

remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. <u>Clark v. Capital Credit</u> <u>& Collection Services, Inc.</u>, 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 *et seq.*, is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." <u>Johnson v. Riddle</u>, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).

37. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

# COUNT I <u>DEFENDANT VIOLATED</u> THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 38. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Defendant violated §1692b(2) of the FDCPA by informing Plaintiff that another person owes a debt;
  - b. Defendant violated §1692(b)(3) of the FDCPA by calling Plaintiff more than once in connection with collecting a debt from another individual;

#### PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

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- Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA by communicating with c. Plaintiff at a time or place that it knew or should have known to be inconvenient;
- Defendant violated §1692c(b) of the FDCPA by communicating with d. Plaintiff about a debt allegedly owed by another person;
- Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by harassing, oppressing or e. abusing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt;
- f. Defendant violation §1692d(5) of the FDCPA by causing Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass him; and
- Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable g. means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt.

### **COUNT II** DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- 39. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations specified in all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if fully set forth at length.
- 40. Section 227(b)(3)(A) of the TCPA authorizes a private cause of action for a person or entity to bring in an appropriate court of that state "an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation."
- 41. Section 227(b)(3)(B), of the Act authorizes a private cause of action for a person or entity to bring in an appropriate court of that state "an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater."

- 42. A non-debtor has a vastly greater privacy interest from debt collection telephone calls to a cellular telephone than an individual who is a debtor. Watson v. NCO Group Inc., 462 F.Supp. 2d 641 (E.D. Pa. 2006).
- 43. Despite the fact that Plaintiff is a non-debtor and never consented to Defendant making calls to his cellular phone, Defendant repeatedly placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone without Plaintiff's consent.
- 44. Defendant's conduct violated § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by making any call using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial prerecorded voice to a cellular telephone for non-emergency purposes, without the prior express consent of the called party, unless the call is initiated for emergency purposes.
- 45. The Act also authorizes the Court, in its discretion, to award up to three (3) times the actual damages sustained for violations.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, UTAH YORK, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §
   1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Statutory damages of \$500 for each violation of the TCPA, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B); and
- e. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, UTAH YORK, demands a jury trial in this case.

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DATED: 10-13-11

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

By: <u>3654</u>

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID # 57100

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